IMPAC II Technical Coordinators

Date:	July 17, 2003
Time:	1:30–3:00 p.m.
Location:	Rockledge 6700B, Rm 1205
Chair:	Chip Groh

Next Meeting: August 21, 2003, 1:30–3 p.m., Rockledge 6700B, Rm 1205

Action Items

1. (All) Verify link accounts listed on handout. Email Helpdesk a contact name and email address associated with each link account.

2. (Scarlett Gibb, Tim Twomey, Chip Groh) Decide how to resolve the problem of an abundance of users downloading records from the APPLS_T table. Communicate solution to IMPAC II Technical Coordinators.

3. (All) Review schema changes for August 1 deployment.

Handouts

1. Query Tool Engine diagram http://era.nih.gov/docs/Web_QT_handout.pdf

2. eRA Password Policy Draft http://era.nih.gov/docs/NIH_eRA_Password_Policy.pdf

3. List of Link Accounts

4. IRDB Redesign PowerPoint presentation:
   http://era.nih.gov/Docs/IRDB%20_Redesign_Update.pdf

Architecture Update

Tracy Soto

The first version of the Web Query Tool is scheduled for release in August. Web QT will serve as a replacement for ICStore and QuickView and will consolidate NIH query tools.

The most significant part of the Web Query Tool is the backend—specifically, the query tool engine. The engine will provide a single place for querying data, ensuring that data is consistent in all applications. The engine receives requests from applications, interacts with the IMPAC II database, and returns data to application hitlists. For August, the query tool engine will be integrated into the Web QT and the Program Module.

Tracy encouraged the group to consult the Web QT handout for additional information and to contact Daniel Fox with any technical questions.

Password Policy for eRA

Dave Carter

Dave presented a draft of the eRA password policy scheduled for implementation three to four months after the fall deployment. This policy will be applied across all modules in the eRA system.

The group reviewed the policy draft and suggested the following—

- ❑ Provide account holders notification to change passwords at least a month in advance. Tracy Soto explained that she and Dave have discussed a fourteen-day pop up window that would prompt all users to change passwords. Also, she has entertained the idea of using e-notifications to inform link account users when their passwords will expire.

- ❑ Create a procedure to handle locked accounts. Tracy said that User Administration within each IC will be responsible for resolving locked accounts. She will be working with Dave Carter to establish the details of this procedure.

- ❑ Ensure that there is a phasing period for password expiration. Tracy explained that the proposed implementation is to enforce password expiration in groups, preferably by the first letter of the user name. For instance, all user names beginning with A through D will change their passwords first. These phases will occur once a month, beginning three to four months after fall deployment.

- ❑ Consider a stand-alone reset/utility option for link account holders.

Tracy distributed a list of link accounts and asked the group to review the information, note any changes, and email the Helpdesk with a contact name and email address associated with each link account. Apparently, the Operations Branch requires this information for all link accounts.

Finally, Dave said that the latest version of the password policy is posted on the eRA Web site and encouraged the group to contact him with any questions: http://era.nih.gov/docs/NIH_eRA_Password_Policy.pdf

Action: **(All) Verify link accounts listed on handout. Email Helpdesk a contact name and email address associated with each link account.**

IRDB Redesign

Pete Morton

The original eRA database architecture, which is still in use today, includes two distinct data repositories. The On-Line Transaction Processing (OLTP) database contains the most up-to-date information and is focused on data input and business process support. The IMPAC II Reporting Database (IRDB) is updated nightly from the OLTP database and is a simplified database designed for speedy querying, reporting and other business decision support activities. Separating the *transaction* and *reporting* data provides a means for security delineation for data access and allows each database to be tuned for its specific purpose.

Although the original architectural approach to eRA data is still valid, ICs and others have found major problems with the current IRDB, including out-of-date, missing or unavailable data. Due to these issues, many ICs have created local systems that rely on information downloaded from the

OLTP. This practice, which defies the architectural design, has created a significant impact on OLTP performance.

A team was formed to address the IRDB issues. The team has created a five-phase IRDB redesign plan.

- ❑ Phase 1: "Replicate" identified OLTP tables

- ❑ Phase 2: Design and build new IRDB structure and acquire Extract/Transform/Load (ETL) product to populate it

- ❑ Phase 3: Migrate IRDB users to new IRDB structure

- ❑ Phase 4: Migrate users off replicated OLTP tables to new IRDB structure

- ❑ Phase 5: Retire replicated OLTP tables

The team has worked very closely with the user community and will continue to do so through each phase of the project. This interactive approach will increase user buy-in and keep user impact manageable.

August Deployment Update

Chip Groh

The deployment is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday, August 1. Several new pilots will be released, including the Program Module, Web Query Tool, the Grants Management and Program Official customizable checklists, and the Committee Management Web version. This will be a fileserver deployment only. No changes will be required to user desktops. All Client Server (CS) applications are "mandatory" installations, meaning that current versions or applications will not work after Friday evening, August 1.

Schema changes have been posted to the IMPAC II Web site. The majority of the schema changes involve the address and degree changes Sara Silver presented at the last IMPAC II Technical Coordinators Meeting: http://era.nih.gov/docs/presentation_address_ict_6-19-03.ppt. Chip encouraged the group to review the schema changes this week and prepare for deployment. Release notes for all applications will be posted a few days before the deployment.

Chip also announced that a new column will be added to the APPLS_T table so that whenever users download records in APPLS_T, all dates will be updated. However, an abundance of users downloading records simultaneously from the table could be problematic. Scarlett Gibb said that a solution to this problem is still undetermined. She suggested disabling the table; Chip recommended coordinating the download times of ICs to avoid crashing the system. Scarlett said that she will inform the group of a decision as soon as possible.

Action: **(Scarlett Gibb, Tim Twomey, Chip Groh) Decide how to resolve the problem of an abundance of users downloading records from the APPLS_T table. Communicate solution to IMPAC II Technical Coordinators.**

Action: **(All) Review schema changes for August 1 deployment.**